Timucuan National Preserve National Park Service



Birds of the Timucuan Preserve Field Checklist

About the Preserve

The 46,000 acre Timucuan National Preserve was designated by Congress in 1988 to protect the complex salt marsh/estuarine ecosystem and historic and prehistoric sites between the lower St. Johns and Nassau Rivers.

Public lands within the preserve are administered by the National Park Service, the State of Florida, and the City of Jacksonville. The remainder is privately owned. Currently, the National Park Service owns approximately 9,000 acres within the Preserve, which includes Fort Caroline National Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Area, Kingsley Plantation, and Cedar Point.

The Preserve is a vast expanse of salt marsh grasses and waterways, of quiet wooded islands, and long views of a flat horizon. Some views are pristine, while others display striking evidence of humans - shell middens, ancient forts, a historic plantation, modern homes, power plant towers, Naval Station Mayport, automobile bridges, and the primary pleasure boat corridor on the east coast - the Intracoastal Waterway.

Much of the salt marsh is among the least disturbed on the southern Atlantic Coast. The estuarine habitats of the preserve provide important spawning grounds for many economically important fish and invertebrates.

Due to the orientation of the preserve and the large range of unimpaired habitats found here, a rich diversity of plant and animal life can be readily observed. Rare and sensitive species of plants and animals representing important and critical habitats in the Preserve include sea oats, Atlantic loggerhead turtle, West Indian manatee, and wood stork, as well as multitudes of more common species.

Birding in General

Bird populations vary greatly in numbers and species according to seasons. Fall and spring are the best times to observe the highest diversity of Neotropical migrants. Large numbers of breeding and non-breeding gulls and terns can easily be observed in the summer months. Wide varieties of water and land birds, and birds of prey are present during winter. The National Audubon Society's

Jacksonville Christmas Bird Count boasts an annual tally of over 150 species (one of the highest in North America). Most of this count area lies within Preserve boundaries. Birds are attracted to saltwater marshes, beach and shoreflats and a wide variety of upland areas. The best opportunity to observe the greatest diversity of bird life is from mid-September to mid-May.

In summer biting insects, afternoon thunderstorms, and sweltering heat and humidity are the rule, but this is also the best time to observe the largest numbers and species of shorebirds. Winter days can be quite mild and pleasant, but always be prepared for rapidly changing weather patterns.

When looking at a bird, pay close attention to the field marks, such as color, size, shape, and wing and head markings. Always observe first and then refer to your field guide, when the bird can no longer be observed. Take careful field notes and be sure to report rare, unusual, and out of range birds to the park staff.

About The Checklist

This list contains 339 species that have been recorded either in the Timucuan National Preserve, or elsewhere in Duval County. The nomeclature and taxonomic order used in this list follows that appearing in the 6th edition of the American Birding Association's *Birds of the Continental United States and Canada*, published in 2002.

Legend

Sp- Spring, late February through mid-May

S - Summer, mid-May through mid-July

F - Fall, mid-July through mid-November

W - Winter, mid November through late February

Spring - Some species migrate much earlier than others, appearing in northeast Florida during late February and early March, but are none the less considered spring migrants rather than winter visitors. Their status at this time of the year is indicated under Spring rather than Winter.

Summer - Status under this heading indicates the relative abundance of summering birds. Observers must remember late spring migrants can be found into early June, and that early fall migrants can occur as early as late June, but these are not summering birds. Their status as migrants is indicated under Spring and Fall rather than Summer

Fall - Since some species, particularly shorebirds, migrate quite early, appearing in northeast Florida by early July, their status as fall migrants is indicated under Fall rather than Summer.

Winter - Status under this heading indicates the relative abundance of wintering birds. As indicated above, some early spring migrants may be present during March or earlier, as with Purple Martins. Likewise, some late fall migrants linger into November. However, these occurrences are omitted from the winter column so as to clearly indicate the true winter residents and visitors

Seasonal Abundance Codes

- Common to Abundant, easily found in suitable habitat.
- u Uncommon to Fairly Common, found when looked for in suitable habitat, but can be missed.
- Rare to Very Uncommon, more often missed than seen, even when looked for in suitable habitat.
- Occasional, normally less than five individuals per season during any given year, but to be looked for.
- a Accidental, less than ten records for the entire area, and not to be expected.

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Gaviidae: Loons				
Red-throated Loon (numbers variable late fall/winter)	0		r	r
Common Loon (late fall migrant)	r	a	u	u
Podicipedidae: Grebes				
Pied-billed Grebe (breeds)	u	r	u	u
Horned Grebe (late fall migrant)	r	·	u	u
Procellariidae: Shearwaters				
0 1 01		C		
Cory's Shearwater (pelagic) Greater Shearwater (pelagic)	u r	C	u	
	r	r	0	
Sooty Shearwater (pelagic)	0	0		
Audubon's Shearwater (pelagic)	0	0	0	
Hydrobatidae: Storm-Petrels				
Wilson's Storm-Petrel (pelagic)	С	С	r	
Leach's Storm-Petrel (pelagic)	r			
Sulidae: Boobies and Gannets				
Northern Gannet	u		u	С
Not them danket	u		u	C
Pelecanidae: Pelicans				
American White Pelican (numbers variable in winter)	r	0	r	r
Brown Pelican	С	С	С	С
Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants				
Double-crested Cormorant	С	u	С	С
Anhingidae: Darters				
Anhinga (very local, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Ardeidae: Bitterns and Herons				
American Bittern	r		r	а
Least Bittern (very local, breeds)	r	r	r	
Great Blue Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Great Egret (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Snowy Egret (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Little Blue Heron (breeds)	C	С	С	С
Tricolored Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Reddish Egret (most easily seen at, or near, beaches)	0	u	r	0
Cattle Egret (breeds)	C	С	u	0
Green Heron (breeds)	u	u	u	0
Black-crowned Night-Heron (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Threskiornithidae: Ibises and Spoonbills				
White Ibis (breeds)	С	u	С	С
Glossy Ibis	r	r	r	0
Roseate Spoonbill (can be locally common in summer)	r	u	r	а

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Ciconiidae: Storks				
Wood Stork (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Carthartidae: New World Vultures				
Black Vulture (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Turkey Vulture (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Anatidae: Ducks, Geese, and Swans				
Snow Goose (please note if blue subspecies)	0		0	0
Canada Goose (virtually all are feral, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Muscovy Duck (all ferel)	u	u	u	u
Wood Duck (breeds, can be locally common)	u	u	u	u
Gadwall			r	u
American Wigeon	r		r	r
American Black Duck				а
Mallard (virtually all are feral, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Mottled Duck (breeds, watch for Mallard/Mottled hybrids)	u	u	u	0
Blue-winged Teal (numbers variable in late summer)	r	0	u	С
Northern Shoveler	r		u	u
Northern Pintail	0		0	r
Green-winged teal	r		r	u
Canvasback				0
Redhead				0
Ring-necked Duck	r	а	u	u
Greater Scaup	0	_	0	r
Lesser Scaup	r	а	u	С
Surf Scoter	0		0	r
White-winged Scoter	0		0	0
Black Scoter (numbers variable in winter)	0		r	u
Long-tailed Duck				0
Bufflehead	0		r	u
Common Goldeneye				0
Hooded Merganser	r		u	С
Red-breasted Merganser	r	0	u	С
Ruddy Duck	r	а	r	u
Accipitridae: Hawks, Kites, Eagles and Allies				
Osprey (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Swallow-tailed Kite (breeds)	r	r		
Mississippi Kite	0	0		
Bald Eagle (numbers variable in winter, breeds)	r	r	r	r
Northern Harrier	r		u	u
Sharp-shinned Hawk	r		u	u
Cooper's Hawk (breeds)	r	r	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Broad-winged Hawk	0			а
Red-tailed Hawk (breeds)	u	u	u	С

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Falconidae: Falcons				
American Kestrel	r	a	u	С
Merlin (more common during migration)	r		r	r
Peregrine Falcon (numbers peak in October)	r		u	0
Phasianidae: Turkeys				
Wild Turkey (most are found in western Duval Co, bree	eds) U	u	u	u
Odontophoridae: New World Quail				
Northern Bobwhite (declining, local, breeds)	u	u	u	u
Rallidae: Rails, Gallinules, and Coots				
Clapper Rail (breeds)	С	С	С	С
King Rail	0		0	r
Virginia Rail	r		0	u
Sora	u		u	u
Purple Gallinule (very local, breeds)	r	r		
Common Moorhen (breeds)	С	С	С	С
American Coot (breeding status unknown)	u	r	u	С
Gruidae: Cranes				
Sandhill Crane	0		0	
Charadriidae: Plovers				
Black-bellied Plover	С	r	С	С
American Golden-Plover (late summer migrant)	0	r	r	
Wilson's Plover (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Semipalmated Plover	U		С	С
Piping Plover	r		u	u
Killdeer (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Haematopodidae: Oystercatchers				
American Oystercatcher (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets				
Black-necked Stilt (breeds)	u	u	u	a
American Avocet (numbers fluctuate)	r		r	r
Scolopacidae: Sandpipers, Plalaropes, and Allies	S			
Greater Yellowlegs	u		С	С
Lesser Yellowlegs	u		С	r
Solitary Sandpiper	u		u	
Willet (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Spotted Sandpiper	u	0	С	u
Upland Sandpiper	0		0	
Whimbrel (numbers highly variable during migration)	u		r	-
Long-billed Curlew	r	0	r	0
Marbled GodwitRuddy Turnstone	r	0 r	r	0
Ruddy Turnstone Red Knot (sporadic in spring migration)	C C	r	c u	С
Red Knot (sporadic in spring migration) Sanderling	C	0	u C	u c
candoming	C	-0	C	

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Sandpipers, Phalaropes and allies, continued				
Semipalmated Sandpiper (returns mid-summer)	С		С	
Western Sandpiper (most are gone by late April)	r		С	С
Least Sandpiper (starts returning mid-summer)	С		С	С
White-rumped Sandpiper	r		r	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		u	0
Purple Sandpiper (most records from Huguenot Park)	0		0	0
Dunlin	r		u	С
Stilt Sandpiper	r		u	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper			r	
Short-billed Dowitcher	u	0	С	С
Long-billed Dowitcher	r		r	r
Wilson's Snipe	r		u	С
American Woodcock (breeding status unknown)	r	0	r	u
Wilson's Phalarope	0		0	
Red-necked Phalarope (mostly pelagic)	0		r	r
Red Phalarope (pelagic)			0	r
Laridae: Skuas, Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers				
Pomarine Jaeger	0		r	r
Parasitic Jaeger	0	а	r	r
Laughing Gull (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Black-headed Gull (1 record)				a
Bonaparte's Gull	r		r	u
Ring-billed Gull	u	r	С	С
Herring Gull	u	r	С	С
Iceland Gull				a
Lesser Black-backed Gull (most numerous in Oct.)	0	a	u	r
Glaucous Gull				0
Great Black-backed Gull	U	r	u	С
Gull-billed Tern (breeds, declining)	U	u	r	a
Common Tern (numbers peak in late summer)	r	r	С	
Caspian Tern	U	r	u	u
Royal Tern (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Sandwich Tern (breeds)	u	u	u	r
Forster's Tern	С		С	С
Least Tern (breeds)	С	С	r	
Bridled Tern (pelagic)	r	r	r	
Sooty Tern (pelagic)	U	u	u	
Black Tern (most numerous from land in Aug./Sept.)	r	0	u	
Black Skimmer (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Columbidae: Doves			-	
Rock Dove (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Eurasian Collared-Dove (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Mourning Dove (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Common Ground-Dove (breeds)	u	u	u	u
Cupulidas, Cuelos -				
Cuculidae: Cuckoos				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (breeds)	u	u	u	

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Tytonidae: Barn Owls				
Barn Owl (current beeding status unknown)	0	0	0	0
Strigidae: Typical Owls				
Eastern Screech-Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Great Horned Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Barred Owl (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Short-eared Owl				0
Caprimulgidae: Goatsuckers				
Common Nighthawk (breeds)	С	С	u	а
Chuck-will's-widow (breeds)	С	С	r	
Whip-poor-will (numbers highest mid/late-March)	r		0	0
Apodidae: Swifts				
Chimney Swift (breeds)	С	С	С	
Trochilidae: Hummingbirds				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird (breeds)	С	С	С	0
Black-chinned Hummingbird				a
Rufous Hummingbird				0
Alcedinidae: Kingfishers				
Belted Kingfisher (breeds)	r	0	С	С
Dicidae Weedneckers				
Picidae: Woodpeckers Red-headed Woodpecker (breeds)	r	r	r	r
Red-headed Woodpecker (breeds) Red-bellied Woodpecker (breeds)	C	r C	C	r c
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	r	C	u	u
Downy Woodpecker (breeds)	C	С	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker (very local, w. Duval County)	0	0	0	0
Northern Flicker (breeds)	u	r	u	u
Pileated Woodpecker (breeds)	u	u	u	u
·				
Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers				
Eastern Wood-Pewee (breeds, western Duval Co.)	r	r	r	
Acadian Flycatcher (breeds. western Duval Co.)	r	r	r	
Alder Flycatcher	a		a	
Willow Flycatcher	a		0	
Least Flycatcher	0		0	0
Eastern Phoebe	r		С	С
Great Crested Flycatcher (breeds)	С	С	С	a
Western KingbirdEastern Kingbird (breeds, western Duval Co.)	a u	u	o u	
Gray Kingbird (very local near beaches, breeds)	u 0	r	0	
	-		_	
Laniidae: Shrikes				
Loggerhead Shrike (breeds)	u	u	u	u

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Vireonidae: Vireos White-eyed Vireo (breeds) Yellow-throated Vireo (breeding status unknown) Blue-headed Vireo Warbling Vireo Philadelphia Vireo Red-eyed Vireo (breeds)	C r r a o c	c r	c r u a o c	r u
Corvidae: Jays and Crows Blue Jay (breeds) American Crow (breeds) Fish Crow (breeds)	C C	C C	C C	C C
Alaudidae: Larks Horned Lark				а
Hirundinidae: Swallows Purple Martin (breeds) Tree Swallow Northern Rough-winged Swallow (local as breeder, Bank Swallow Cliff Swallow Barn Swallow (breeds)	c u) u r	c r	r c u r r	С
Paridae: Chickadees and Titmice Carolina Chickadee (breeds) Tufted Titmouse (breeds)	C C	C C	C C	C C
Sittidae: Nuthatches Red-breasted Nuthatch Brown-headed Nuthatch (breeds)	u	u	u	a u
Troglodytidae: Wrens Carolina Wren (breeds) House Wren Winter Wren Sedge Wren Marsh Wren (breeds)	c r r	c	c u u	C U O U C
Regulidae: Kinglets Golden-crowned Kinglet Ruby-crowned Kinglet	r		o u	0 C
Sylviidae: Gnatcatchers Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (breeds)	u	u	u	u

Families and Common Names	Sp	S	F	W
Turdidae: Thrushes				
Eastern Bluebird (breeds)	u	u	u	С
Veery	r		u	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-		0	
Swainson's Thrush	0		u	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	С
Wood Thrush	0		0	J
American Robin (breeds)	u	r	u	С
Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Trashers				
Gray Catbird (breeding status unknown)	u	0	u	С
Northern Mockingbird (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Brown Thrasher (breeds)	u	u	u	u
	<u>.</u>	<u> </u>		ű
Sturnidae: Starlings				
European Starling (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Motacillidae: Pipits				
American Pipit	r		r	u
Bombycillidae: Waxwings				
Cedar Waxwing (numbers highly variable in winter)	u		u	u
Parulidae: Warblers				
Blue-winged Warbler	r		u	
Golden-winged Warbler	0		0	
Tennessee Warbler	r		u	
Orange-crowned Warbler	r		u	u
Nashville Warbler	а		0	а
Northern Parula (breeds)	С	С	u	0
Yellow Warbler	u		u	_
Chestnut-sided Warbler	0		u	
Magnolia Warbler	0		u	
Cape May Warbler	u		u	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	u		u	а
Yellow-rumped Warbler	u		С	С
Black-throated Green Warbler	0		r	а
Blackburnian Warbler	0		r	_
Yellow-throated Warbler (breeds)	C	С	С	u
Pine Warbler (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Prairie Warbler	С	0	С	0
Palm Warbler	С	_	С	С
Bay-breasted Warbler	0		u	,
Blackpoll Warbler	u		u	
Cerulean Warbler	4		0	
Black and White Warbler	u		u	u
American Redstart	u		С	a
Prothonotary Warbler (very local as breeder)	r	r	r	u
Worm-eating Warbler	u		u	
Swainson's Warbler	0		u	
Ovenbird	u		u	0
Overland	u		u	J

	Sp	S	F	W
Warblers, continued				
Northern Waterthrush	u		С	0
Louisiana Waterthrush	0		r	
Kentucky Warbler	0		0	
Common Yellowthroat (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Hooded Warbler (very local as breeder)	r	r	u	
Wilson's Warbler	0		0	а
Canada Warbler	0		0	
Yellow-breasted Chat (very local as breeder)	r	r	r	
Thraupidae: Tanagers				
Summer Tanager (breeds)	С	С	С	0
Scarlet Tanager	r		u	
Emberizidae: Emberizids				
Eastern Towhee (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Bachman's Sparrow (breeds western Duval Co.)	r	r	r	0
Chipping Sparrow	u		C	С
Clay-colored Sparrow	а		0	0
Field Sparrow	r		r	u
Vesper Sparrow	r		r	r
Lark Sparrow	а		0	а
Savannah Sparrow	С		C	С
Grasshopper Sparrow	0		0	0
Henslow's Sparrow	0		0	r
Le Conte's Sparrow	0		0	0
Swamp Sparrow	r		u	С
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	u		u	u
Seaside Sparrow (breeds)	С	u	С	С
Fox Sparrow	a		0	0
Song Sparrow	0		u	u
Lincoln's Sparrow	Ü		-	0
Swamp Sparrow	r		u	u
White-throated Sparrow	r		r	u
White-crowned Sparrow (locally common in winter)	0		r	r
Dark-eyed Junco	O		a	0
Lapland Longspur (most often seen at Huguenot Park)			u	0
Cardinalidae Cardinals Saltators and Allics				
Cardinalidae: Cardinals, Saltators, and Allies	C	C	C	_
Northern Cardinal (breeds)	C r	C	C	r
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r	r	r	r
Blue Grosbeak (breeds)	u	r	u	
Indigo Bunting (very local as breeder)	u	r	u	
Painted Bunting (breeds)	С	С	u	0
Icteridae: Blackbirds				
Bobolink	u		u	
Red-winged Blackbird (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Eastern Meadowlark (very local, declining as breeder)	U	r	u	u
Rusty Blackbird Common Grackle (breeds)	O C		0 C	r

Families and Common Names	Sp	5	ŀ	VV
Blackbirds, continued				
Boat-tailed Grackle (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Brown-headed Cowbird (breeds)	С	С	С	С
Orchard Oriole (breeds)	u	u	r	
Baltimore Oriole	r		r	0
Fringillidae: Cardueline Finches and Allies				
Purple Finch				0
House Finch (very local, breeds)	r	r	r	r
Pine Siskin	а			0
American Goldfinch	r		u	u
Passeridae: Old World Sparrows				
House Sparrow (breeds)	С	С	С	С

Accicentals: the following species have been seen 10 times or less in Duval county. They should be in the back of your mind depending on the season and/or habitat.

Red-necked Grebe
Eared Grebe
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel
White-tailed Tropicbird
Great Cormorant
Magnificent Frigatebird
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Fulvous Whistling Duck

Fulvous Whistling Duck Ross's Goose Tundra Swan Brant Common Eider Harlequin Duck Common Merganser Snowy Plover Bar-tailed Godwit Baird's Sandpiper Sabine's Gull Black-legged Kittiwake

Arctic Tern Atlantic Puffin

Atlantic Puffin
White-winged Dove

Monk Parakeet

Black-billed Cuckoo

Calliope Hummingbird

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Ash-throated Flycatcher Tropical Kingbird

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Cave Swallow Brown Creeper

Conneticut Warbler Western Tanager Snow Bunting

Black-headed Grosbeak

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Dickcissel

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Brewer's Blackbird Shiny Cowbird

Bullock's Oriole Evening Grosbeak

Date	No. of Species	
Time Afield		
Observers		
Weather		

Sp

Remarks:

Families and common Names

Birding areas worth a visit:

Fort Caroline National Memorial Theodore Roosevelt Area Kingsley Plantation

Cedar Point

Cedai i diiil

Huguenot Memorial Park

Hanna Park

Talbot Islands State Park (includes Fort George Island)

Pumpkin Hill Creek State Buffer Preserve

Pelotes Island

Little Jetties Park

Jacksonville's Beaches (south of St. Johns River)

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National Park Service: http://www.nps.gov

July 2003

Please send any records of rare birds, birds not on this list (for any season), or any other comments to the above address.